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November 3, 2016

Larry Gottesman
National Freedom of Information Officer
Environmental Protection Agency
National Headquarters
Environmental Protection Agency - (2822T)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

FOIA REQUEST

Fee benefit requested

Fee waiver requested

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of all comments received by EPA contractor Versar regarding the peer review candidates and draft charge for the peer review of documents intended to support EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) decision making for perchlorate. My understanding is that these comments were due Oct. 21.

EPA's Sept. 30, 2016, *Federal Register* notice, FR DOC # 2016-23607, announcing the public comment period acknowledges that these "public comments are subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act."

As a representative of the news media I am only required to pay for the direct cost of duplication after the first 100 pages. Through this request, I am gathering information on EPA's decision-making process for setting a drinking water standard for perchlorate that is of current interest to the public because there are questions about the chemical's presence in drinking water sources nationally and its risks. EPA's ongoing process is also its first attempt at regulating a chemical under SDWA since the 1996 amendments. This information is sought on behalf of *Inside EPA* for dissemination to the general public.

Please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

As I am making this request as a journalist and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate your communicating with me by telephone or email, rather than by U.S. Postal Service, if you have questions regarding this request. I look forward to your reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Maria Hegstad